

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 24 has been cancelled, while claims 25-27 have been amended to claim computer-readable medium having encoded data recorded thereon (claim 25), and a program recorded thereon (claims 26 and 27). Furthermore, claims 1 and 16 have been amended such that the processes claimed therein are tied to another statutory class. Furthermore, the claims have been amended for clarity.

Applicants believe that the above changes answer the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claims 1-12, 16-20 and 24-26 (and arguably claim 27), and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 13-15 and 21-23.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1-23 and 25-27, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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